



State of Tennessee Department of Education

ELL Students in Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Testing Policy

The purpose for including our student population of English Language Learners (ELL) in our Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program is to help ensure that children who are limited English proficient, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English, and meet the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.

The following references from the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* provide the basis for this inclusion.

Title III Section 3121(c) includes the percentage of children who-
(C) are meeting the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as **all children** are expected to meet; and
(D) are **not receiving waivers** for the reading or language arts assessments required under this section

Section 1111(b) (3) (F) of Title I says that State assessments shall provide for:

- i. the participation in such assessments of **all** students;
- ii. the reasonable adaptations and accommodations for students with diverse learning needs, necessary to measure the achievement of such students relative to State content standards; and
- iii. the inclusion of **limited English proficient students** who shall be assessed, to the extent practicable, in the language and form most likely to yield accurate and reliable information on what such students know and can do, to determine such students' mastery of skills in subjects other than English.

Federal guidance allows for NO BLANKET EXEMPTION for English Language Learners (ELL) in state mandated assessments. All ELL students who have been in the state for a full academic year will be included and held accountable at some level within the state. Level of accountability will be determined by time of enrollment within the school, district, and state. A list of approved accommodations has been provided for English Language Learners in state assessments.

In addition to participation in the state assessment, an annual assessment of English Proficiency using the IDEA Proficiency Test (IPT) must be given. The level of performance must be reported to the State Department of Education on the annual LEP Prior Year Survey.

2003-2004 English Language Learner (ELL) Accommodations

No Child Left Behind ('01) mandates that all students participate in statewide assessments.

All students are expected to achieve the same high standards in Tennessee. The State of Tennessee English Language Learners (ELL) Testing Policy states:

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There are NO exemptions of ELL students from any State assessments.

ELL status must be determined by the IDEA Proficiency Test (IPT). A score of less than English Proficient on any subtest qualifies students as ELL. School districts must document and determine accommodations each year, based on individual needs and abilities.

Accommodation	TCAP Achievement	TCAP Competency	TCAP End-of-Course (EOC)/ TCAP Gateway	TCAP Writing Assessment	Required Conditions for Accommodations
Q Extended Time	Time and a half per subtest	NOT APPLICABLE- Untimed	EOC - Time and a half per test Gateway – NOT APPLICABLE - Untimed	Time and a half	➤ ELL, and ➤ score as limited English proficient on IPT
R Bilingual Dictionary	Not allowed for Language Arts, Reading, Spelling, Word Analysis and Vocabulary subtests	Not Allowed for Language Arts	Not Allowed for EOC English I and Gateway Language Arts	NOT ALLOWED	➤ ELL, and ➤ score as limited English proficient on IPT
S Read Aloud in English Internal Test Instructions	All subtests	May read aloud or use Audio only or Audio with test booklet	All tests	All tests	➤ ELL, and ➤ score as limited English proficient on IPT
T Read Aloud in English Internal Test Items	Not allowed for Language Arts, Reading, Spelling, Word Analysis and Vocabulary subtests	May read aloud or use Audio only or Audio with test booklet	Not Allowed for EOC English I and Gateway Language Arts	All tests	➤ ELL, and ➤ score as limited English proficient on IPT

*Remember all students are eligible for **Allowable Accommodations**, as needed, on any TCAP assessment.

Questions regarding required conditions for use of ELL Accommodations should be directed to Carol Irwin, TN ESL Coordinator at (615) 741 -3262.